

February Mixed Waste Subgroup Highlights

The Hanford Mixed Waste (MW) subgroup met on February 6, 1997. Copies of the Hanford MW Technology needs that were sent to the MW Focus Area (MWFA) along with the transmittal letter were distributed to all subgroup members. The MWFA wants to visit Hanford to discuss our needs and their response to them. The Hanford STCG Management Council (MC) wants the MWFA to send us in writing what they intend to present to us before a date is set for their visit. A March or April visit is foreseen.

Joe Waring stated that John Bellar of the MWFA called him to ask if Hanford would like to perform the non-thermal treatment demonstration we proposed last summer. Rocky Flats won the award for the demo but has decided not to do it so the MWFA is asking Hanford if it wants to do the demo. The MWFA would provide \$3 million in FY98 with the Site also putting up some money. Joe Waring will check with the PHMC and Rust to see if there is support for the demo and Joe will also work with the MWFA to clarify what can be done for the demo.

The subgroups discussed ways to improve the technology needs identification and prioritization process. Tom Baker will look at ways to beef up the functional performance requirements for the needs. Field personnel will be asked to identify operational needs for the next submittal. Short term needs may be quantified and a separate list created for them.

Pete Molton (PNNL) gave a vugraph presentation about the Technology Connections (Techcon) program and presented a proposal to use a Techcon approach for MW characterization needs. Techcon is a DOE change agent to actively match site needs with industry technology solutions. A number of Techcon reports and articles were distributed and reviewed by Pete. The proposal to the subgroup is a similar approach to work done at INEL on groundwater remediation and contaminated soils. If the characterization needs are not the best MW needs to look at using Techcon, this approach would work on another need. Joe Waring stated that there is funding available for near-term (less than five years) characterization. There are two types of characterization: verification of old waste with no certification and verification of new waste with certification to various levels. Pete stated that Techcon could be used to help put together an RFP for industry just as it did at INEL for their groundwater problem. Tom Baker will talk to his management about using Techcon and Norm Olson will do the same for the PHMC. At the next subgroup meeting Norm and Tom will report on these effort.

A discussion took place as to what the subgroup wants from the management council. The following are some items noted from the discussion:

- Would like to know more about what the management council is working on,
- Can the management council help us put pressure on the MWFA to get funding for our needs?
- If the MWFA does not meet all our needs, then how can the management council help meet them?
- We need to be involved in the new EM-50 Deployment Fund Initiative effort.

The next MW subgroup meeting is scheduled for March 13 at 1:30 pm in the ETB, Spokane River Room. The following agenda items were proposed for the March meeting:

- How the PHMC Technology Management group will work on MW issues,
- Results of the discussion between PHMC and Rust on the PNNL TechCon proposal,
- Update on the MWFA visit and the non-thermal treatment demo proposal.